GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1449
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2003
FLARING OF NATURAL GAS
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether natural gas is still being flared in the country;

(b) if so, the extent of natural gas which is being flared;

(c) whether there are any possibility of using such gas being flared;

(d) if so, the investment required for this purpose; and

(e) the steps proposed to properly use all available gas reserves in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURALGAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) & (b): During 2001-02 out of total gas production of 29.71 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) a quantity of about 1.67 BCM was flared, which constitutes about 5.6%.

(c) to (e): Gas is being flared mainly due to the technical and safety reasons, the time lag between start up of oil production and the creation of associated down stream infrastructure for associated gas, as well as the non-availability of consumers in remote areas and fluctuation in consumer offtake.

Continuous efforts are being made by the upstream oil companies for reduction of gas flaring and the investments required for this purpose vary from time to time. Some of the measures undertaken to reduce gas flaring include-

i) Installation of compression facility, debottlenecking and construction of gas evacuation pipelines.

ii) Incorporation of capacity control in gas compressors and installation of Gas Holders in order to negate surging effect.

iii) Implementation of storage cum Flow back scheme in order to conserve gas in underground depleted reservoirs during low upliftment by outside consumers.